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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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Missoula, MT 59812
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Oct. 5, 1993

UM TO VISIT MONTANA'S TRIBAL COLLEGES IN 'CIRCLE OF NATIONS TOUR' OCT. 10-14

MISSOULA --

On Sunday, Oct. 10, University of Montana President George Dennison and 22 other UM representatives will pile into vans and hit the road for a five-day, 1,463-mile journey that will visit six of the state's Native American tribal colleges.

"The Circle of Nations Tour" is intended to strengthen communication between UM and the tribal colleges and to gather information and insight that will help the University further its educational and cultural goals.

"Whereas each of the seven reservations is a nation within a nation, each with its own unique culture, language, history and world view, it is our purpose to provide a better understanding of the cultural diversity within our state and to improve the educational environment and opportunity for all Montanans," states the Circle of Nations statement of purpose.

The tour will include UM administrators, faculty members and students. Participants will spend three to four hours on each campus, visiting with colleagues and sharing information. Dennison will meet with tribal college presidents and board members.

The tour will begin Sunday with a Native American blessing ceremony at 11 a.m. in the grassy mall between Main Hall and the Mansfield Library. At noon the vans will leave UM for their first stop, Billings.

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On Monday tour participants will spend the morning at Little Big Horn Community College in Crow Agency, have lunch at the Little Big Horn Battlefield and continue to Lame Deer and Dull Knife Memorial College.

The tour will continue to Poplar and Fort Peck Community College Tuesday. Participants will spend Wednesday morning at Fort Belknap Community College, Fort Belknap Agency, then travel to Rocky Boy and Stone Child Community College.

The Circle of Nations will conclude Thursday with a visit to Blackfeet Community College in Browning and an evening return to the UM campus.

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Contacts: Tour coordinator Aric Taylor, 243-2536; Native American Studies Director Bonnie Craig, 243-5831.

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Local, dailies, tribal, highlighted towns

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